



SICHUAN UNIVERSITY

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012

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the Russian Council of the Federation  
Visits and Speaks at SCU

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Vice-President of the French Senate  
and Former Prime Minister of France, Visits SCU

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An Interview with  
Eminent Foreign Professor Kida



## Jiang'an Campus Library, SCU

Jiang'an Campus Library, SCU, completed in 2004, lies at the center of the beautiful Jiang'an Campus and covers a total floorage of 25,300 m<sup>2</sup> (or 272,326 ft<sup>2</sup>). The library was designed by Mr. Amred, a prominent Canadian designer of ARK Inc. The magnificent torch-shaped structure is a landmark on Jiang'an Campus and provides the most pleasant reading environment.

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Sichuan University

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012

The Sichuan University newsletter is provided by the International office of Sichuan University. Its purpose is to share the latest news and events that happen on campus with our teachers, students, alumni and friends. We welcome any suggestions or questions from our readers.

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<http://www.scu.edu.cn/en/index.htm>

## President Xie Heping Receives Honorary Doctorates from Hong Kong Polytechnic University and University of Nottingham, UK

President Xie Heping of SCU was recently awarded honorary doctorates from Hong Kong Polytechnic University and University of Nottingham, UK. He attended the honorary degree conferring ceremonies held at the two schools on October 27 and November 17 respectively.

The honorary doctorates are awarded to Professor Xie as a recognition of his outstanding achievements and contribution. He had long dedicated himself to research in and application of rockmass mechanics and engineering. He was recognized as a “world-class authority and top scientist” by other researchers in the field of rockmass mechanics. Many prestigious overseas universities and research institutions have extended invitation for him to become guest professor, give lectures and collaborate in research projects. Professor Xie’s outstanding accomplishments have helped him win numerous honors, including the second prize for the National Award for Advancement in Science and Technology and the second prize for the National Prize for Natural Science.

Other than his role as the president of a university and an eminent scholar with exceptional accomplishments, Professor Xie is also actively involved in civil organizations. He demonstrates great foresight and always responds promptly to the needs of the society.

In his acceptance speech, Professor Xie



*President Xie Heping, SCU receiving honorary doctorate from the University of Nottingham, UK*



*Prof. Timothy K.M. Tong, President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU), President Xie Heping, SCU, and Marjorie Yang Muntak, Council Chairwoman, HSPU (from left to right)*

said that the honorary doctorates were lifelong honors and direct recognition of his academic achievements. Furthermore,

they gave him support and incentive to persist in his pursuit of academic and research excellence.

# Delegation from Moscow State University Participate in Seminar at SCU

At the invitation of the Chinese government, a delegation composed of 150 faculties and students from Moscow State University (MSU) arrived in Chengdu on August 19, 2012 for a 5-day field trip to Sichuan and SCU, in particular. Some SCU faculty members and students welcomed the delegation at the airport and SCU threw a welcoming banquet in honor of the guests.

**The seminar kicked off. Participants had discussions about the friendly relations between SCU and MSU. Then the delegation paid a visit to the SCU Museum and took part in a welcoming show in the evening.**

In the morning of August 20, the opening ceremony of the MSU Student Seminar was held on Wangjiang Campus, SCU. Vice-President Yan Shijing, SCU and Mr. Nikolay V. Semin, Vice Rector of MSU and the head of the delegation, attended the opening ceremony and made addresses. Approximately 200 SCU and MSU faculties and students attended the opening ceremony.

Vice-President Yan extended a cordial welcome to the faculties and students of MSU. He invited them to immerse themselves in Chinese culture during their short stay in Sichuan. He said they should experience the local culture of Chengdu, make a lot of Chinese friends and turn the seminar into one of their best memories for life.

Mr. Nikolay V. Semin, Vice Rector of

MSU and the head of the delegation, thanked SCU for the warm hospitality. He expressed best wishes that the seminar would deepen mutual understanding, promote further exchange and cooperation activities and contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries. He also made best wishes for the complete success of the field visit.

After that, the student representatives of SCU and MSU gave fascinating speeches and the auditorium was overflowing with enthusiasm and joy.

Liu Yading, Deputy Director of the Contemporary Russian Studies Center gave an interesting lecture on Chinese Culture to the MSU students in fluent Russian.

The MSU faculties and students paid visits to the SCU Museum and Jinsha Relics Museum, which showcases the ancient local culture of Sichuan.

In the evening, SCU organized a show entitled Evening of Cultural Exchange between Russia and China. Faculties and students from MSU and SCU joined hands to perform brilliant programs with distinctive cultural features of the two countries. The audience responded with constant warm applause and happy laughter.

**Seeing giant panda, listening to lectures, visiting Jinli and experiencing the local culture of Chengdu**

In the morning of August 21, the

delegation headed for Chengdu Giant Panda Research Center, the first stop on their itinerary. MSU students arrived at the research center in high spirits, wearing gift T-shirts from SCU and carrying with them plush toys in the shape of pandas. Mikhaie, an MSU student, excitedly exclaimed that, "They—the giant pandas—are the national treasures of China, the crown jewel of the biological world. It's so exciting to be able to observe them at such close proximity and see how cute they are. I think the MSU students are so blessed to have this opportunity."

In the afternoon, the delegation returned to SCU campus for a lecture entitled The Face of Chengdu by Professor Chi Jimin, Vice-Chair of the Department of Russian, SCU. The MSU faculties and students were deeply fascinated by Chengdu, "a city from which no one wants to leave," and responded with warm applause.

After that, the MSU delegation visited Jinli Street, a famous tourist site in Chengdu, to have an authentic taste of the traditional Chinese culture, Chengdu local delicacies, and the folk culture of Sichuan. The ancient architectural style of West Sichuan, which was re-created in the design of buildings along the Jinli Street, brought the MSU faculties and students on a time travel back to the ancient times.

## Hiking Qingcheng Mountain and visiting Dujiangyan Irrigation Project

On August 22, the delegation, accompanied by SCU faculties and students, visited Qingcheng Mountain and Dujiangyan Irrigation Project, a world cultural heritage site. The members of the delegation took pictures of the journey and the people they saw on the way. They were very impressed by the delicate landscape in Qingcheng Mountain and the magnificent view at Dujiangyan Irrigation Project.

As requested by the delegation, SCU arranged for a tour of the Sichuan Provincial Center of Science and Technology.

The MSU faculties and students had mixed feelings upon conclusion of the seminar. They were not ready to leave Sichuan so soon.

Valiyata of the Department of Geography, MSU said that SCU was a very good university and the SCU campus is immersed in its rich heritage of culture and the humanities. "I would like introduce the delicious food and amazing culture of Sichuan to my classmates, family and relatives."

Yekaterina Ioannovna, an MSU teacher fluent in Chinese, said that the field visit to Sichuan was the most special and unforgettable experience in her life. She believed that the seminar would deepen mutual understanding and friendship between SCU and MSU, and that there would always be a strong tie between the two schools. "I would hate to leave Sichuan. I think there are many things waiting for me to discover them."

## Visiting Beijing, meeting the Vice Premier and bidding farewell

On August 23, the delegation left SCU and flew to Beijing to join another del-



egation consisting of 150 MSU students.

In the morning of August 24, Vice Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council, Government of China met with the MSU delegation, had discussions with them and took group photos together.

Afterwards, the MSU delegation visited Beijing Normal University, the Capi-

tal Museum, the Great Wall, Tian'anmen Square, and the Palace Museum.

On August 28, the delegation finished their visit to China and returned to Russia.

At the end of the 10-day trip to China, the members of the delegation excitedly worded their appreciation for Vice



Premiere Li Keqiang, who helped create the opportunity for them to visit China. They have learned a lot and developed a genuine interest in the rich cultural and historical heritage of China and the spirit and charm of the Chinese nation. They all agreed that they would like to share with their friends and relatives what they

have learned on this fascinating journey and looked forward to opportunities to visit China again.

The seminar gives the MSU delegation a well-rounded knowledge of the traditional Chinese culture, an authentic experience of the customs and folk culture of China, and a chance to witness the

radical change and rapid socioeconomic development taking place in China. It helps reinforce understanding and friendship between the young people of the two countries and is conducive to favorable political and social impact in all circles of life in the two countries.

# Chairwoman Matvienko of the Russian Council of the Federation Visits and Speaks at SCU

Ms. Valentina I. Matvienko, the Chairwoman of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, escorted by Mr. Ilyas Umakhanov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation, led a delegation to visit SCU on September 8, 2012. She delivered a speech at SCU. Mr. Sergey Sergeevich Razov, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to China and Mr. Sang Guowei, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of China, accompanied her on the visit. On behalf of President Xie of SCU, Professor Li Guangxian, the Executive Vice-President, and Professor Yan Shijing, Vice-President of SCU, met and talked briefly with Chairwoman Matvienko.

Executive Vice-President Li Guangxian made a brief overview of SCU. He said that SCU proudly boasted one of the oldest Russian programs in Chinese universities and has some relevant research institutions, for example, the Contemporary Russian Studies Center. SCU attaches great importance to cooperation and exchange with Russian universities and has welcomed a student delegation from the Moscow state University in summer, 2012. The students from the two universities studied together and exchanged ideas with each other, greatly enhancing the friendship between the two nations.

Chairwoman Matvienko expressed appreciation for SCU's hospitality and spoke highly of the cooperation and exchange activities between SCU and



Russian universities. She said that SCU has the competence and basis for serving an active role to promote friendship between China and Russia. There is great potential to be tapped in cooperation between SCU and Russian universities, especially in research and student exchange programs. She hoped that the two sides would put in more efforts in expanding cooperation and exchange activities.

Afterwards, Chairwoman Matvienko addressed the students of SCU. She said

that she had been to China before and had personally witnessed the rapid progress and changes taking place in China. China is developing at an amazing rate and Russian people are happy to see the steady progress of China. She pointed out that Russia and China are both in a transitional phase of modern development and that social innovation and industry upgrading both rely largely on the support of technology and human resources. The connection between China

and Russia is a model for major international powers. The connections are developing rapidly and show great promise for extensive development. Chairwoman Matvienko stressed the importance of exchange and communication between universities from both countries and those between the young students of the two countries. She said that there should be more communication between young people from the two countries so that the friendship between the two countries is to be continued by the future generations. She hoped that more Russian universities should establish direct ties

with SCU and other Chinese universities, which would unquestionably be conducive to cultural and educational exchange between Russia and China.

Chairwoman Matvienko said that Chengdu, China is an important base of such emerging industries as aviation and information technology. SCU is one of the oldest, largest and best universities in China and has great potential for more exchange and cooperation with Russia in high-tech industries and education. She called on more efforts from all parts of Russia to have more cooperation activities with Sichuan and Chengdu, in par-

ticular. Through her personal visit, she hoped to promote cooperation between the national governments of China and Russia and between the local governments of Russia and China, that of Sichuan, for example, in diversified fields, and in education, in particular, thus enhancing the friendship between the two nations.

Chairwoman Matvienko answered questions addressed to her from the SCU students and her humorous replies drew resounding applause from the audience.

## Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Vice-President of the French Senate and Former Prime Minister of France, Visits SCU

In the morning of September 20, 2012, a delegation headed by Jean-Pierre Raffarin, vice-president of the French Senate and former prime minister of France, visited SCU and the West China Hospital of SCU. He was accompanied on the trip by Cheng Tao, the Chinese Ambassador to France, and Emmanuel Rousseau, the Consul General of the French Consulate General in Chengdu. On behalf of President Xie Heping, Professor Li Hong, Executive Vice-President of SCU, received vice-president Jean-Pierre Raffarin and his delegation. SCU officials from the departments concerned also attended the meeting.

Executive Vice-President Li Hong extended a cordial welcome to vice-president Jean-Pierre Raffarin and his delegation. He introduced some background information about the four hospitals of



SCU, elaborating on the authority West China Center of Medicine commanded in the field of medicine in China and the remarkable achievements of West China Hospital in recent years. Executive Vice-

President Li hoped that the visit by vice-president Raffarin would help further the friendship between China and France, deepen communication and cooperation, and lead to extensive cooperation



programs in clinical medicine and public health between the two countries.

Vice-president Raffarin expressed appreciation for the warm reception extended by SCU. He commended the

development of West China Center of Medicine and pointed out that the long history of friendship between the two countries had resulted in cooperation programs in medicine, science and technology and healthcare. After the delegation visited Beijing, Wuhan and Shanghai, they found that there had been quite a large number of cooperation and exchange programs in medicine between the two countries. Vice-president Raffarin hoped that SCU would send more delegations to make field visits in France, identify potential partners, take advan-

tage of France's strengths in equipment and technology and help realize a win-win situation.

President Shi Yingkang of West China Hospital, SCU introduced to the delegation the history, development, research programs and result transformation activities of the hospital. The two sides had heated discussion on a number of medical issues, for example, the early diagnosis of tumor, tracking the metastasis of carcinoma sites, and carcinoma diagnosis and treatment.

## The Nepalese Ambassador in China Visits SCU

On July 6, Professor Yan Shijin, Vice President of Sichuan University (SCU), met with Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey, the Nepali ambassador in China. Also present were school officials concerned.

The Vice President informed the ambassador of the status of the university and the study and life of Nepali students here. He said that the University attaches great importance to and shows great concern for their study and life, and that the students study very hard and interact with the Chinese students very well. He believes that when the Nepali students graduate, they will contribute toward the Nepal's economic development and Sino-Nepal friendship. He also expressed the hopes that the ambassador's visit would deepen the friendship and cooperation between SCU and Nepali universities, that there would be extensive cooperation in economy, culture, health and scientific research, and that SCU welcome more young people from Nepal to apply to and study at SCU.



Ambassador Maskey thanked him for the warm reception by SCU. He said that he had heard of the long history of the University and its academic prestige. At present, SCU is one of the universities with the largest Nepali student recruitment. Most Nepalese students who have returned to Nepal after graduation have

contributed greatly to the local economic and societal development. He thanked SCU for the full support the Nepalese students enjoy and hoped to maintain long-term cooperation with SCU and boost reciprocal academic visits from the both sides.

## Professor Barry Marshall, Australian Nobel Prize laureate in Physiology or Medicine, Visits SCU

On October 15, a delegation headed by Professor Barry Marshall, a Nobel Prize laureate in Physiology or Medicine, visited SCU. Vice-President Yan Shijing met with the visitors and extended a cordial welcome to them. Vice-President Yan thanked Professor Marshall for accepting an honorary professorship at the West China Center of Medicine. SCU has launched many expert recruitment programs, for example, the Top Foreign Expert Recruitment Plan and Nobel Laureates Visiting SCU. Vice-President Yan was confident that Professor Marshall's visit would help promote communications between SCU and the University of Western Australia (UWA) and boost cooperation in academic training, teaching and research.

Professor Marshall thanked SCU for the warm hospitality. He said that UWA is one of the oldest and most famous universities in Western Australia, and that the school has exceptional strength in the field of biological science. He hoped to get to know more about SCU through the visit and to reinforce the long-term cooperation between the Marshall Center, UWA and the Center for Infectious Diseases, West China Center of Medicine, SCU.

After the meeting, Vice-President Yan Shijing presented Professor Marshall with a letter of appointment for an honorary professorship at SCU.

Professor Marshall made a speech on



Beyond the Nobel Prize, Human and Helicobacter pylori, which received enthusiastic response from SCU students.

Minibiography of Professor Barry Marshall

Barry James Marshall is an Australian scientist, professor at the UWA, and 2005 Nobel Prize laureate in Physiology or

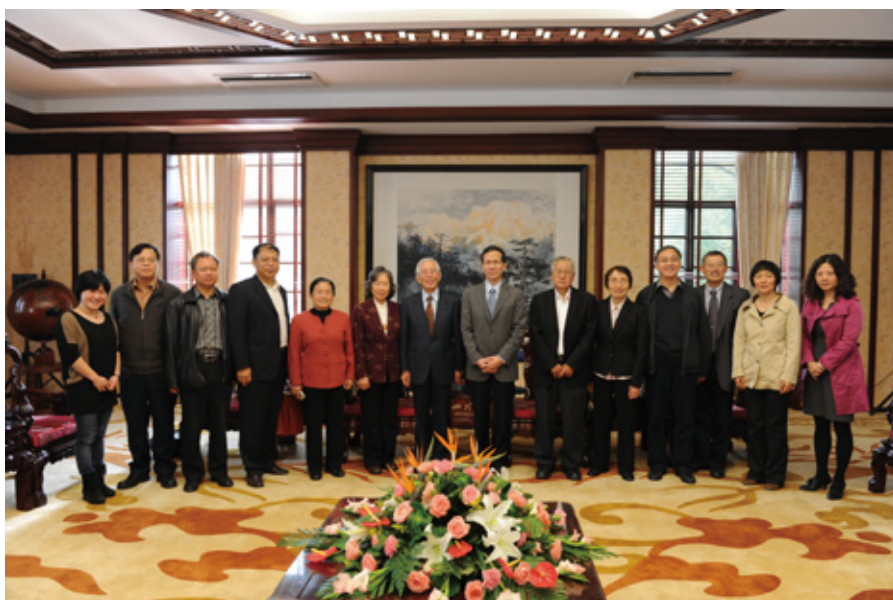
Medicine. He and John Robin Warren found that the bacterium Helicobacter pylori (*H. pylori*) is the cause of most peptic ulcers. He was elected a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering in December, 2012.

## Prof. Hideki Shirakawa, Laureate of Nobel Prize for Chemistry, Visits SCU

On October 15, on behalf of President Xie, Professor Li Guangxian, Executive Vice-President of SCU, welcomed Professor Hideki Shirakawa, winner of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and a delegation headed by him. Professor Cao Yong, member of the Chinese Academy of Science and some officials from the International Office and National Key Lab for Polymer Material Engineering of SCU attended the reception.

Executive Vice-President Li extended a cordial welcome to Professor Shirakawa and his delegation. He said that SCU enjoyed strategic importance in west China. SCU has a long history and rich cultural heritage. The polymer programs at SCU are the best ones in China. SCU always attaches great importance to international cooperation and exchange and has launched many expert recruitment programs, for example, the Top Foreign Expert Recruitment Plan and Nobel Laureates Visiting SCU. He hoped that Professor Shirakawa's visit will help promote exchange of ideas between SCU and the University of Tsukuba and bring about more cooperation programs for academic training and research.

Professor Shirakawa expressed appreciation for SCU's hospitality. He said that the University of Tsukuba had always attached great importance to cooperation and exchange with Chinese universities and hoped that University of



Tsukuba would form a steady cooperation relationship on the long-term basis with SCU so as to strive for mutually beneficial development.

### Minibiography

Professor Hideki Shirakawa is a Japanese polymer chemist, professor emeritus of University of Tsukuba, and winner of

the 2000 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. On the basis of his research on conductive polymers, Professor Shirakawa founded plastic electronics, contributing to the creation and development of molecular electronics. His research helped overthrow the old myth of the non-conductivity of plastics and start the brand-new research field conductive polymers.

## An Interview with Eminent Foreign Professor Kida, the Leading Japanese Scientist in Environmental Resource Utilization

Professor Kida, previously on the faculty of the Natural Science Research Department, Kumamoto University, is a leading scientist in environmental resource utilization. Professor Kida headed the research and development projects on resource utilization of various institutions, e.g. Japan New Energy Promotion Organization and Japan Water-Making Promotion Center. He has approximately 40 years of experience in research and development in the fields of urban sewage treatment, resource utilization of industrial waste and livestock husbandry waste and is the world's lead expert in constructing study and demonstration plants on resource utilization of kitchen waste and developing the technology of fuel ethanol production from wood fiber and bamboo fiber.

After his retirement in March, 2012, he

was recruited by SCU through a national program called One Thousand Foreign Experts and became a high-level expert and foreign professor at SCU. Since then, he has been dedicated to setting up the Kida Laboratory, focusing on solving recycling technical problems concerning converting countryside township and city garbage into new and clean energy. In addition, he helped SCU faculty form a cutting-age research team on clean energy, environmental renewable energy, living resources recycling utilization and urban waste treatment technologies.

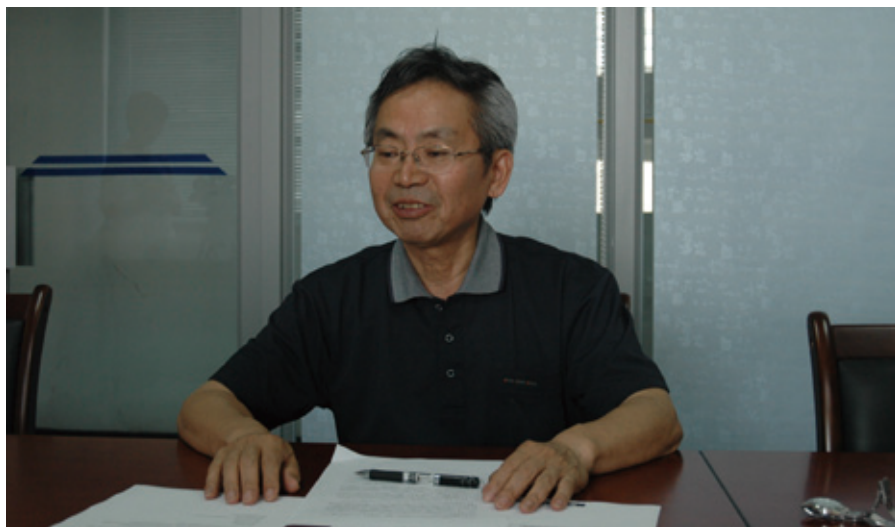
### A fascinating blueprint for the future Green Town

A small Japanese town, a green demonstration town of material consumption recycling and clean low carbon, was built on the basis of applying Professor Kida's

technology, giving the best example of a novel recycling process of converting garbage into clean energy. Professor Kida explained that the domestic wastes, feces and discarded materials of the fifteen thousand town residents were collected, cleaned up and converted, producing clean fuel, providing energy for the lighting and living consumption in the town, and providing the fertilizer for vegetables and rice. The local residents have their waste totally disposed of and become self-sufficient in energy consumption by using green energy and organic matter. Recycling wastes from the town help generate eighty percent of the energy needed by the town and only twenty percent of the energy was supplied from the outside sources.

This small Japanese town has become a famous site for field visits. Many visitors flock to the town every year.

Professor Kida said that his purpose of coming to Chengdu and joining SCU is to lend SCU with a leading edge in renewable energy. He intends to apply the clean energy recycling conversion technology in the waste treatment field for developing a modern countryside and international garden city in Chengdu. He hopes to help build one or two green low carbon demonstration towns in Chengdu and then disseminate the model in West China and across the whole country. According to his plan, the first such model town will be built in Jintang County, Chengdu, in two years.





### Coming to SCU because of the school's sincerity

As a matter of fact, Professor Kida was invited to be a visiting professor as early as 1998. Since then, he had come to SCU for teaching on many occasions. With growing familiarity of Chengdu, he developed a growing devotion to SCU. Being a faculty member of SCU, his main research work focuses on molecular biology, (farming waste and human & animal excrement) fermentation engineering, genetics (breeding), (food brewing) fermentation engineering, etc. He is dedicated to applying the R&D technologies in building an environmental harmonization food industry, resource recycling industry and low carbon society.

Being a dedicated scientist, Professor Kida hopes that his research results would be used extensively to improve human life and environment. Speaking of why he chose to come to SCU, he emphasized that he came because of sincerity. He said that he was moved by the sincerity shown repeatedly by SCU. Not only did the SCU leaders go to his university for inviting him, but they at-

tended his retirement ceremony. These things greatly moved him and made him want to come to China to do research on a fulltime basis in SCU in the field of renewable energy and head the SCU team to create Chinese green and low-carbon model towns in Chengdu.

Professor Kida said that he was happy to see the supportive environment in China for technology transformation and creativity. The Chinese people have a growing awareness of the importance of environmental protection and he was more than pleased with the construction of Kida Pilot Plant, his research base in China. He hoped that more people would come to the realization that waste recycle could change the source of the energy needed by cities and towns and bring great benefits to people's lives.

SCU provided tens of millions of funds for Professor Kida to set up his lab at the school. Since Professor Kida came to SCU, the leaders of the university visited him on many occasions and inquired about the progress of the lab construction project, giving full support to solve any problems related to the Kida Pilot Plant. At present, the Kida Lab is on

the Jiang'an campus already completed. President Xie Heping had personally took a team to visit the lab. On SCU campus, Kida Pilot Plant, a state-of-the-art lab reflecting the future green and environmental protection technologies is about to be finished by September. By then, Professor Kida's living resources recycling utilization technologies will help open a new chapter on green recycling energy and clean environmental protection biotechnologies. Kida Environmental Biotechnology Research Centre will be officially open soon.

### Involving SCU students and faculty in an enthusiastic drive for renewable energy research

In Professor Kida's lab is all kinds of equipment, worth of 20 million Japanese yen, he brought from Japan. Many students and professionals are visiting the lab because they interested in and eager to participate in Professor Kida's research project of 100 percent recycled green renewable energy, which would change people's life and benefit mankind.

Professor Kida now heads a research team of 40 plus professors, and graduates and undergraduate students. They are actively involved in the lab work and conducting teaching and research. Professor Kida says that, with the promising prospects of the discipline, he hopes to help train some high-competent SCU students in his advanced lab, and foster a new batch of top researchers specializing in green and renewable energy in SCU, a university with over 100 years of history.

Professor Kida has always displayed impressive academic rigor, modesty, kindness and professionalism, all the invaluable traits of a great scientist.

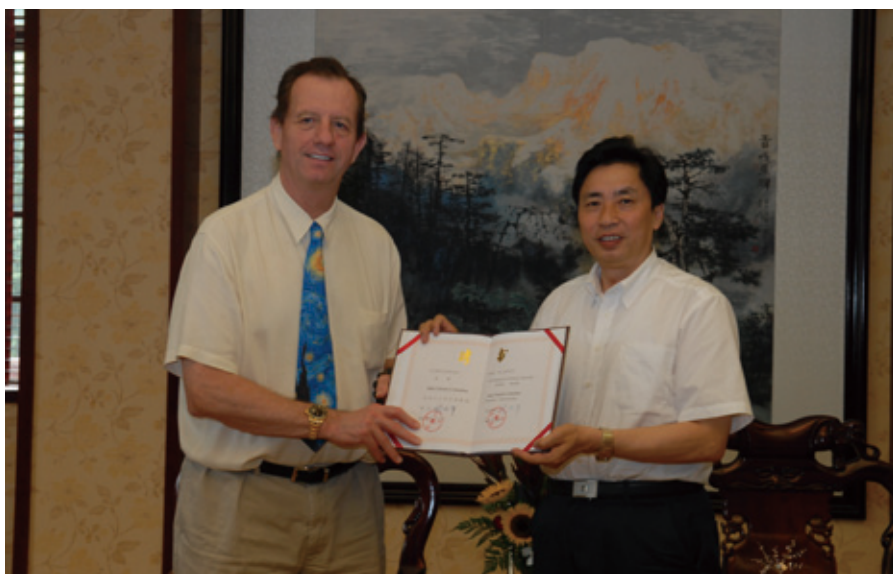
May Professor Kida enjoy great health and great success working at SCU.

## John Crittenden, Member of the American Academy of Engineering, takes Honorary Professorship

On June, 19, 2012, Professor John Crittenden, Member of the American Academy of Engineering, visited SCU and accepted an Honorary Professorship. President Xie Heping met with Professor John Crittenden and those that came with him, and conferred the Honorary Professor Certificate. The heads of the departments concerned also attended the meeting.

President Xie Heping extended a warm welcome to the professor. He said that the uniqueness and advantages of SCU laid a solid foundation for the cooperation. As water sources utilization and waste water recycling grow in importance, the marketing prospects of the industry become ever more optimistic. He expressed the hopes that Professor Crittenden would achieve substantial results in long-term cooperation concerning the fields of construction and environment with the SCU departments concerned and provide assistance in discipline development and talent fostering.

Professor John Crittenden is the incumbent director of Brook Byers Institute of



Sustainable Systems, Georgia Institute of Technology, a tenured professor, Member of the American Academy of Engineering, Member of the Consultation Panels of American Environment Protection Department, National Environment Policy and Scientific Technology as well as Member of National Scientific Research Advisory Committee. Prof. Crittenden is one of the top 100 most influential chemical engineers in the U.S. and the highest authority in phys-

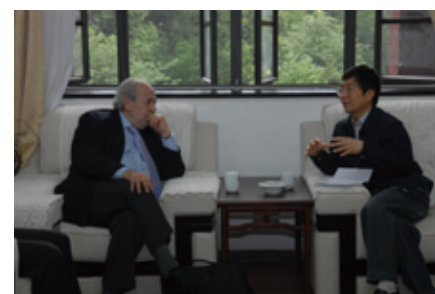
ics and chemistry in the country. Long dedicated to research concerning waste water recycling, pollution control, nanotechnology and mass transfer and separation process, he holds five patents, has published over one hundred papers and nine books, among which Theory and Design of Water Processing is the textbook for undergraduate and graduate American students and a useful reference book for the designers and researchers.

## Celebrated American Leftist Scholar, Arif Dirlik, of Duke University, Visits SCU

On June 18, 2012, Executive Vice President, professor Luo Zhongshu met with the famous American leftist scholar, Arif Dirlike, of Duke University. Vice President Shi Jian and others also attended the meeting.

Vice President Luo Zhongshu said that as a comprehensive university, SCU

attaches great importance to interdisciplinary teaching and research and has established a number of institutions for that purpose. He hoped that Professor Dirlik, a scholar of international stature, could come to the university to teach and do research. In recent years, SCU has accelerated its pace of interna-



tionalization, inviting many prominent foreign scholars and experts to join the faculty.

Vice President, Professor Shi Jian,

introduced to the visitor in detail the programs, prominent foreign teachers who joined the SCU faculty, development of the humanities and coopera-

tion with other universities.

The two sides discussed in great detail the plan for future cooperation.

## Michael F. Collins, Executive Vice President and Chancellor of University of Massachusetts Medical School Visits SCU

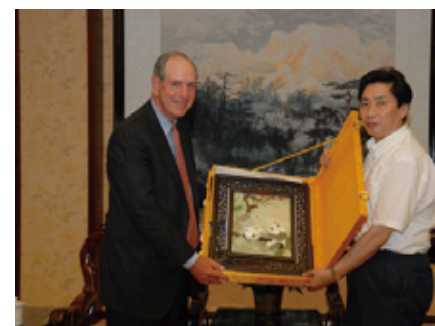
In order to facilitate the establishment of SCU-UMMS Craig Mello Biomedical Research Laboratory, the Executive Vice President and Chancellor of University of Massachusetts Medical School, Professor Michael F. Collins visited SCU on June 26. The president of SCU, Prof. Xie Heping met with them. Executive Vice President, Professor Li Hong, Vice President Shi Jian, Vice President Yan Shijing and other SCU officials also attended the meeting.

President Xie Heping said that the university attaches great importance to cooperation with the University of Massachusetts and hoped that through Prof. Collins' visit, the two universities would deepen reciprocal understanding and

trust and promote cooperation in medical research laboratory through mutual efforts.

Prof. Collins thanked him for the assistance and support provided by SCU. After briefly summarizing the results of cooperation, the professor said that the two universities are both large comprehensive public universities and the cooperation relationship stood at a historical moment. He hoped that cooperation would be further strengthened and that the process of establishing the laboratory would speed up so as to achieve great results and make contributions to the world of science together.

The University of Massachusetts (UMASS) is a famous American public



university. It was founded in 1893 and has a history of over 140 years. The university enjoys great international prestige. In 2001, it ranked 19<sup>th</sup>, in the world top 100 most famous universities and 56<sup>th</sup> in the world two hundred best universities by Higher Education Supplement of The Times.

## The Executive Vice Provost of Arizona State University Visits SCU

On June 25, 2012, Professor Keith D. Lindor, the Executive Vice Provost, and Vice President Denis Simon, of Arizona State University (ASU), visited SCU. Vice President Yan Shijing welcomed the delegation.

Vice President Yan Shijing said that the delegation's visit created a great opportunity for the two sides to strengthen

their relationship in regard to academic exchange, student exchange programs, visiting scholar programs, cooperation and research. He said that since the first stage of mutual cooperation, the two sides have been working closely and made substantial progress in international exchange between the two universities. He also spoke highly of the past success,

saying it would lay a solid foundation for an even more successful cooperative relationship in the next five to ten years.

He said that in the recent years not only did the two universities achieve much in student exchange and visiting scholar programs, but the two sides have hosted many international academic conferences concerning research, for



instance, the recent jointly held "Higher Education Creativity" conference, among other things. Focusing on the issues in Higher Education, the two sides have held conferences in 2006, 2008, and 2010 respectively. These conferences not only helped the scholars from both sides find concrete solutions for problems but lent depth to the international cooperation programs. Vice president Yan Shijing

hoped that ASU, SCU's strategic partner, would send scholars and professors to attend the conferences to be held soon and strengthen the cooperation in the fields of humanities and research.

For the last ten years, the two universities initiated the 2+1+1 Joint Undergraduate Program and 3+2 Joint Master's Program in Engineering. The vice president hoped that through this visit by

the administrators of ASU, the two sides could strengthen the cooperation in the 3+2 Master's Program in Engineering and gradually expand it to the other disciplines, such as medicine, public health etc.

Professor Lindor said that ASU has long attached great importance to international exchange and cooperation and that SCU is precisely the kind of partner that the university needs. Over the years, through close cooperation not only had a propitious beginning, but had yielded great success. He hoped that his visit would benefit the future international cooperation programs and help bring about more cooperation programs concerning public health at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

After the meeting, Executive Vice Provost Lindor and other members of the delegation paid a visit to the West China School of Medicine, SCU and Public Health Management College to hold talks. He made a speech on Obesity and Health for the faculty and students.

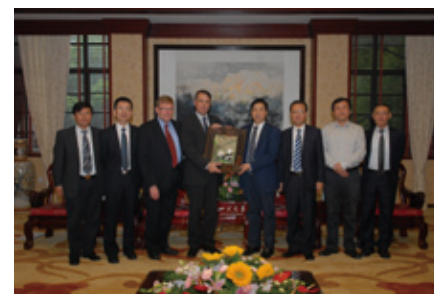
## Prof. John Dewar, Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, Visits SCU

President Xie met with Professor John Dewar, the Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, in the morning of September 20, 2012. Vice-President Yan Shijing and some SCU officials from the departments concerned also attended the meeting.

President Xie stated that the academic programs and research in public administration and health policy at La Trobe University ranked high in Australia. The School of Public Health, SCU, on the other hand, also enjoys very high national rank-

ing in China in the field of public health. Therefore, there is already a favorable basis for successful cooperation and exchange. President Xie was confident that Vice-Chancellor Dewar's visit was going to promote further cooperation on a higher level.

Vice-Chancellor Dewar said that La Trobe University was extensively involved in cooperation efforts for conducting training programs for managers and research in health management and health policy, which have all achieved substantial success. He wished that La Trobe University would



establish partnership with SCU on a higher level and that both side would achieve mutual benefits and further development.

## Vice-President of West Paris - Nanterre- La Defense University, France Visits SCU

Professor Augustin F.C. Holl, Vice-President of International Relations, West Paris-Nanterre-La Defense University (West Paris University or The University of Paris X) headed a delegation to visit SCU on November 12, 2012. Vice-President Yan Shijing welcomed the delegation. He said that SCU and West Paris University signed cooperation and exchange agreement as early as 2004. There is much potential for the two schools to cooperate in economics, archeology, the humanities and social sciences, i.e. areas in which they both demonstrate great strength.

The two schools will expand the scope of cooperation in academic training to cover more disciplines so as to reinforce exchange and cooperation between the two schools.

Professor Holl thanked SCU for the hospitable reception. He said that through the connection and interaction with the professors at SCU, he felt that there was an strong and urgent need for cooperation between the two schools. He wished there be more extensive and in-depth cooperation to conduct research, teaching and joint academic programs.

The two sides agreed that there was to



be more communication and exchange of ideas and that the two schools were going to initiate student and faculty exchange programs in areas of mutual interest.

## President Heeyoung Song of Konkuk University, South Korea Visits SCU

A delegation headed by Heeyoung Song, the President of Konkuk University, South Korea, visited SCU in the morning of November 22. President Xie Heping and Vice-President Yan Shijing of SCU welcomed the delegation.

President Xie said that SCU and Konkuk University were involved in a large number of highly successful cooperation programs in many areas. He stated that there should be more communication and cooperation in research, academic training and student and faculty exchange programs.

President Heeyoung Song also stressed that the two schools should reinforce communication and cooperation at a higher level by co-hosting more academ-



ic forums. In addition, the two schools should upscale efforts in joint programs

for visiting scholars and student exchange activities.



## SCU Delegates Attend Erasmus Coordinators Conference 2012

### EMA2 (Lotus)

At the invitation of the European Association for Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC), a delegation headed by Vice-President Shi Jian visited the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium for the Erasmus Coordinators Conference 2012 in October, 2012. Because SCU's exceptional suc-

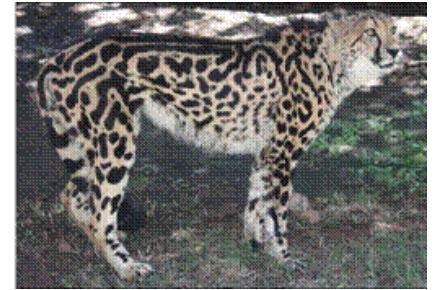
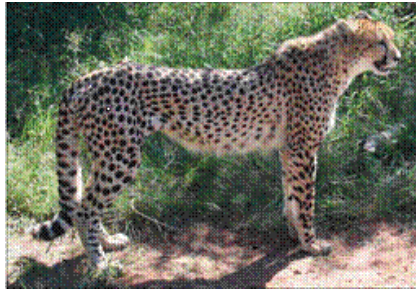
cess and efficiency in the implementation of the Erasmus Programs, SCU was selected as the only Asian coordinator for joint management of the Erasmus Programs. SCU will manage and coordinate the Lotus 3 Erasmus Program. SCU intends to make use of the Erasmus platform to enhance the school's prestige and influ-

ence in international organizations and European and Southeast Asian countries, thus promoting the cooperation between SCU and renowned European colleges and universities on a higher-level and reinforcing SCU's leadership among Asian colleges and universities with Erasmus charters.



## Jointly Supervised PhD Student Published Paper on SCIENCE

Xiao XU, as a co-first author published his research "Specifying and sustaining pigmentation patterns in domestic and wild cats" on SCIENCE 337:1536-1541 (<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/337/6101/1536.full.pdf>). This research identified the gene responsible for tabby pattern variation in domestic cats as Transmembrane aminopeptidase Q (Taqpep), which encodes a membrane-bound metalloprotease. The results revealed that Taqpep is the cause of the rare king cheetah phenotype, in which spots coalesce into blotches and stripes. Histologic, genomic expression, and transgenic mouse studies indicated that paracrine expression of Endothelin3 (Edn3) coordinates localized color differences. A two-stage model was proposed in which



Taqpep helps to establish a periodic pre-pattern during skin development that is later implemented by differential expression of Edn3.

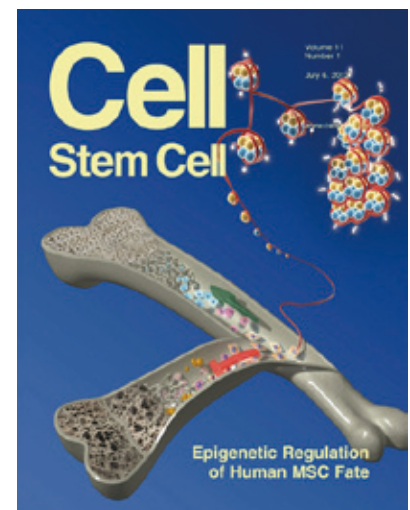
Dr. Xiao Xu studied for PhD degree in Zoology during 2006-2011 in College of Life Science, Sichuan University and Professor Bisong Yue was his supervisor. In 2008, he was funded by China Schol-

arship Council as a jointly supervised PhD program to study in Laboratory of Genomic Diversity, National Cancer Institute in USA for two years. This research was completed in USA and he was supervised by Professor Stephen J. O'Brien. Dr. Xiao Xu got his PhD degree in 2011 and now a post doctoral researcher in Beijing University.

## West China School of Stomatology, SCU Co-Publishes Study on Cell Stem Cell with the School of Dentistry, University of California, Los Angeles

By introducing the epigenetic regulatory mechanisms which govern the differentiation of human bone marrow mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs), Prof. Ye Ling from West China School of Stomatology at Sichuan University and her collaborator Prof. Wang Cunyu at UCLA published a cover paper on the CELL STEM CELL, with title as "Histone Demethylases KDM4B and KDM6B Promote Osteogenic Differentiation of Human MSCs". Their

research shed new light on stem cell research, by identifying the crucial role of the histone demethylases KDM4B and KDM6B in regulating osteogenic differentiation of human MSCs by removing H3K9me3 and H3K27me3 respectively. Since histone demethylases are chemically modifiable, KDM4B and KDM6B may be potential therapeutic targets in metabolic bone diseases such as osteoporosis for controlling MSC fate choices.



## Sichuan University takes the lead in the newest achievement of emission reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), produced from the combustion of fossil minerals, is considered to be one of the main factors responsible for global climate change. CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction has become a significant issue of common concern worldwide. CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage (CCS) is currently considered one of the most effective techniques for reducing emissions, maintaining the current atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, and alleviating greenhouse gas effects. But wide application of the CCS is mainly hampered by its high costs.

Recently, the research group led by Heping Xie, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering reported on line their newest achievement in Chinese Science Bulletin — simultaneous mineralization of CO<sub>2</sub> and recovery of soluble potassium using earth-abundant potassium feldspar. By analyzing disadvantages of CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage, they put forward a new thought of CO<sub>2</sub> capture and utilization, which bases on efficient mineralization. That is to say, through chemical reaction between natural K-feldspar and CO<sub>2</sub>, they efficiently miner-

alize CO<sub>2</sub> to the stable solid carbonate, and produce valuable soluble potassium salt simultaneously. This process realizes three functions: emission reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>; utilization of solid waste and co-production of chemical products with high added value. This newest research achievement provides new ways for emission reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and relieving greenhouse effect. China Science Daily reported this newest research achievement by Heping Xie on the front page.

## The world's first video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) for non-small cell lung cancer successfully performed

Recently, the world's first case of video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) bronchial and pulmonary artery sleeve lobectomy (double sleeve resection) was successfully performed by Pro. Lunxu Liu and his colleagues in the department of thoracic surgery of West China Hospital, Sichuan University. The patient recovered eventfully after surgery and has been discharged.

The success of performing VATS double sleeve resection marks China as an international pioneer in the field of minimally invasive thoracic surgery. Also is this a milestone in the development of VATS lung surgery writing a new chapter in the history of thoracoscopic surgery and making a giant leap in application of minimally invasive thoracoscopic techniques. Nevertheless, this success also plays an important role in making routine VATS lung cancer



resection more fluently.

Now, the Department of Thoracic Surgery of West China Hospital stands in the front-line of minimal invasive lung cancer surgery. The theory of single-direction thoracoscopic lobectomy summarized by Pro. Liu now is

the most commonly used method of VATS lobectomy in China. Besides this first case of VATS double sleeve resection, Pro. Liu has successfully completed more than 10 cases of VATS bronchial sleeve lobectomy, which constitutes a substantial foundation for this success. Lots of other works also have been done by Pro. Liu for the preparation of VATS double sleeve resection including surgical techniques and instruments. He revealed that the key difficulties in VATS double sleeve resection included the artery clamp-resulted inconvenience during arterial anastomosis, and the psychological pressure imposed on surgeon when doing the reconstruction of bronchus and artery under the endoscope. Therefore, this success is not just a fortune and Pro. Liu and his colleagues had performed another VATS double sleeve resection before this report.

# The Sichuan University- University of Washington Collaboration: A Brief History



*Steve Harrell, professor of the department of anthropology, University of Washington, has taught at the University of Washington since 1974. Steve and another two professors of the University of Washington (UW), published an article about UW's partnership with our university in the book *Developing Strategic International Partnerships: Models for Initiating and Sustaining Innovative Institutional Linkages*. Please find the short version of this article as follows.*

Since the start of China's Reform and Opening Policies in 1979, Chinese universities have engaged in concerted efforts to develop partnerships for mutual benefit with universities in other countries; perhaps more than anywhere else with universities in the United States. These efforts at collaboration have had varying degrees of success, from long-term, growing partnerships to paper agreements that have never resulted in any action. Those partnerships that have been successful have been based on a variety of models; perhaps no single set of arrangements is either necessary or desirable for all partnership arrangements. Here we present a case study of a successful model that has evolved since 1998 in the relationship between Sichuan University, in Chengdu, and the University of Washington, in the Puget Sound Region of the State of Washington.

Sichuan University and the University of Washington are similar universities in many ways. Both are large, state-operated institutions with tens of thousands

of students on multiple campuses. Both are highly ranked in their nations' higher education systems, and both boast health sciences colleges that are usually considered the very best in their two countries. Since 1999, Sichuan University and the University of Washington have developed a many-sided relationship of scholarly and educational cooperation. In order to do so, we have had to face many obstacles arising from the differences between the Chinese and the American educational systems, and also from the asymmetrical of the interests that the two universities have in the cooperative relationship. This brief article is a history of how we have used patience, mutual understanding, and negotiation to overcome those obstacles and build a relationship based on reciprocity, recognition of each other's interests, and increasing mutual trust.

## **The Genesis and Early History of the Relationship**

There had been individual collabora-

tions between SCU and UW as early as 1981, but systematic collaboration at the university level began when UW Materials Science Professor Gretchen Kalonji proposed an educational and research exchange involving environmental challenges in China and the United States. This program would involve multidisciplinary, multi-national, multi-level collaboration to address pressing environmental issues. Faculty would engage in joint research projects with funding from both sides, and these projects would include students from an international exchange at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

On the undergraduate level, each university would recruit 25 freshmen students for a special program, five each specializing in Materials Science, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Plant Biodiversity, Forest Ecology, and Environmental Social Sciences. In their junior years, beginning in 2002-03, students would travel to the partner institution, and in addition to coursework would participate

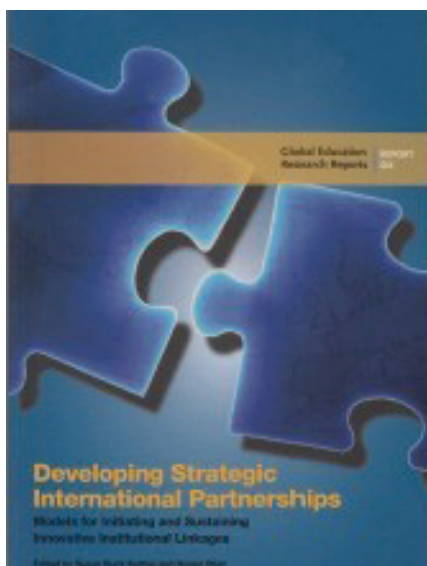
actively in research projects as members of groups that would include faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates from both institutions. Students would pay their home-institution tuition only, essentially funding the education of a student who was visiting their university.

On the graduate level, a group of UW faculty, with Kalonji as principal investigator, applied to the National Science Foundation for an Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) grant, entitled Multinational Collaborations on Challenges to the Environment (MCCE). Doctoral students in any field could apply for two-year traineeships through this program, as long as their research addressed environmental questions. The grant named SCU as one of nine partner universities, from China, Japan, Vietnam, New Zealand, Namibia, South Africa, and Mozambique.

This project would all be held together at the research level, as UW and SCU faculty would apply jointly for regular research grants, which would add to their ability to support graduate students and offer research opportunities for undergraduates. As a pilot project, UW and SCU linked with Jiuzhaigou National Park in northern Sichuan that combined the research interests of biologists, geologists, hydrologists, environmental engineers, archaeologists, and cultural anthropologists. North Cascades National Park in Washington also became a partner, along with the University of California and Yosemite National Park, in what would become the Jiuzhaigou International Laboratory.

### Problems Arising from Differences in Educational Systems

These plans were an important step in developing a cooperativerelationship,



but administrators, faculty, and students at both SCU and UW soon realized that they faced a series of obstacles in implementing them, stemming mostly from the different histories and institutional structures of higher education in the two countries.

Differences in Undergraduate Educational Systems. By 2000, undergraduate participation in research had been growing at American universities, and indeed this trend was one impetus behind the idea of the exchange program. But the idea was foreign to the Chinese system, in which undergraduate education involves no research. SCU faculty however, responded enthusiastically to the idea of involving undergraduates in their laboratory, field, and museum research work.

A bigger problem was the expectations of students from the two countries. American students expected to be led through a series of assignments and heavy readings throughout the semester. Chinese students, in contrast, were accustomed to listening to lectures and memorizing the maximum amount of material to recite on a final examination, with no assignments, no reading, and no

writing.

A final problem was that the SCU students were quite proficient in English, and could take regular classes at the UW from the start, whereas most (but not all) of the UW students had a much lower level of Chinese, and spent much of their non-research time in Chinese-language classes.

Differential Interest in and Ability to Fund Study Abroad. In 2000, studying abroad was a dream for most college students in China. It was considered a ticket to elite status in China or abroad. SCU was thus able to choose some of their best students for study in America, but few Chinese families could afford to fund their study abroad. By contrast, most American students rarely thought about spending a year studying in China, even though it was within the financial reach of most American college students. In consequence, UW was chronically short of American students to study at SCU, and the quantity and quality of UW students ranged widely.

Unsustainable Funding. For the exchange with SCU to become a permanent feature of UW education and research, it would have to be funded permanently. But all the funds secured for both the undergraduate and graduate programs were one-time, nonrenewable federal and internal grants, and so not all programs have been sustained: the IGERT expired in 2010, and the undergraduate exchange faces termination after 2013 unless UW can find additional support.

Lack of Faculty Incentives. University faculty are driven primarily by their own research interests, and are attracted to any program on the basis of whether it increases their opportunities to pursue and fund those interests. At the beginning, faculty at both UW and SCU saw possibilities for funding in initiative for



collaboration. When it became clear, however, that the top-down nature of the original plan and the consequent lack of consideration for individual faculty's research interests made direct access to funds unlikely, many faculty members lost interest.

#### Adjusting Plans to National Realities

Despite these problems, SCU and UW have established a multi-stranded working relationship. This has happened because the relationship has shifted from a top-down to a bottom-up orientation, because a few individual faculty at both institutions have managed to combine undergraduate and graduate education with research in creative ways, and because the original programs have resulted in growing institutional trust between the two universities. In these conditions, the original three programs have survived in modified form, and other exchanges between the universities have developed.

MCCE IGERT. After Kalonji left UW in 2005, the new principal investigator, Thomas Hinckley, made a radical decision to abandon the model of the IGERT as a comprehensive institutional bridge

at the university level, and to redirect funds and efforts to individual trainees' experiences at partner institutions abroad. These included two group trips to conduct short-term interdisciplinary research at Jiuzhaigou, led by Hinckley and SCU faculty members Tang Ya 唐亚 and ZengZongyong 曾宗永. The majority of MCCE fellows completed research projects overseas; three of them did significant research through SCU advisers, two at Jiuzhaigou and one at another site in Sichuan. MCCE thus provided a valuable interdisciplinary and international component to the education of graduate students in many fields, even though it did not, as originally intended, serve as groundwork for a large multi-institutional structure.

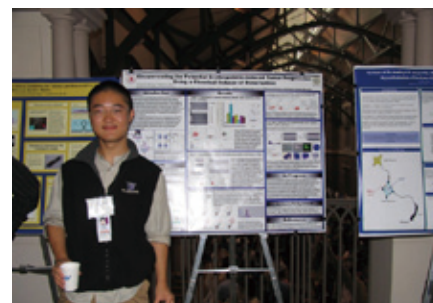
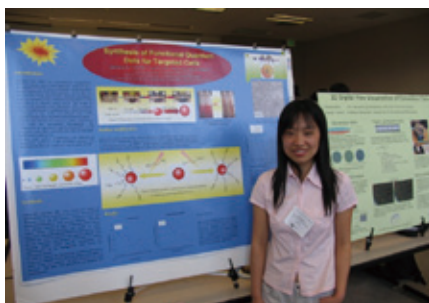
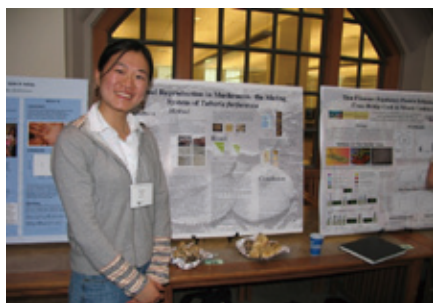
Jiuzhaigou International Laboratory. The Laboratory was formally established in 2005, with SCU, University of California, Jiuzhaigou National Park (JZG), and Yosemite National Park as partners. The University of Washington was added at our request. Sichuan University Faculty, particularly Professors Tang and Zeng, have been tireless in promoting interna-

tional research at JZG. Two teams of Jiuzhaigou staff members have been hosted for months-long traineeships in the US. A UW post-doctoral scholar recently spent six months in Jiuzhaigou carrying out research on historical geomorphic processes. Hinckley's three short-term team visits to JZG produced significant research initiatives on meadow ecology, bamboo growth, and particularly on archaeological research that has thoroughly revised our understanding of the history of human habitation in the area. Professor Tang has provided partial funding for many of these joint and individual efforts.

#### Undergraduate Exchange Program.

The undergraduate exchange program continues, with the eleventh cohorts of students scheduled to travel to Chengdu and Seattle in September 2012. It is, however, not the program we originally envisioned. We have smaller numbers of students, because there are not enough UW students ready to spend a year in China. UW students in Chengdu primarily engage in language study and individual research, while SCU students in Seattle primarily engage in regular classes and laboratory-based research.

This modified strategy has produced excellent results. Approximately 62 students from SCU and 28 returned students from UW have presented their research at the UW's annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, while many SCU students have gone on to master's or doctoral programs in China, Hong Kong, North America, and Europe, and some have received their doctorates, six of them from the UW and one returning to SCU as a faculty member. U.S. students pursue shorter and less focused career directories, but two have obtained their doctorates and several their master's degrees. Others have gone on to medi-



cal and legal education, or to careers in China or involving China.

### Additional Benefits and New Directions

At least as significant as the survival, of the three original components is the reservoir of mutual confidence and the web of connections between UW and SCU that has allowed other exchanges and collaborations to take place. These include:

- Summer Chinese language instruction at SCU. UW has teamed with Arizona State to send approximately 20 students from each American university for intensive language study at SCU
- Administrators' workshops at UW. SCU has sent four teams of mid-level administrators (deans, directors, associate deans, etc.) to UW for intensive, three-week long workshops.
- Urban planning and earthquake rebuilding research. Professors Li Wei of SCU College of Architecture and Professor Daniel Abramson of UW College of Built Environments have conducted research on sustainable rebuilding and tourism in earthquake-ravaged areas of the Min River Valley north of Chengdu.
- Confucius Institute. UW and SCU formed the Confucius Institute of Washington in 2010, in partnership with the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign

Language (Hanban), the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Seattle Public Schools.

- Joint summer institutes. The UW schools of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing, along with the SCU Huaxi Medical Center, conducted an institute on Rural-Urban Healthcare Disparities in 2011, and a second institute, on China India Relations and Area Studies Programs, will take place in September 2012.

### Lessons Learned

Through flexible accommodation on both sides, we have formed a web of relationships that has continued to expand and to provide mutual benefits to the two universities. A few principles that we have learned over the last 12 years include:

1. Be flexible and adaptive. The original plan lacked realism, but the principle behind its vision—that international collaboration is not only beneficial but necessary—has been vindicated even as we have altered the structure.
2. Develop an appropriate level of asymmetry, while maintaining reciprocity. Different institutions, especially those embedded in different national traditions, have different requirements. What is important is not that the same goods and services travel both directions, but that each side respects the other's needs,

accommodates them when possible, and recognizes that the other side is trying to do the same.

3. Work through organic connections. The original plan unintentionally made light of the fact that faculty, students, and administrators at both universities were embedded in institutional cultures that change only slowly, and that faculty are research-driven. Plenty of connections could be established through organic links based on mutual research interests and mutual educational interests, without inventing new structures from the top down.

4. Funding is important, but not everything should be funding driven. Our current activities have little funding of their own, though they do parasitize funding for other projects in creative and productive ways. But we have found out that we can do a lot with a little. Not nothing, but a little.

5. Dream big, but still celebrate what has happened. Recognize that academic conventions exist; don't scorn them, but don't be bound by them. There are many ways to measure success.

Thus two large, regional, comprehensive universities have established a working relationship based on mutual interest, organic connections, and the slow buildup of trust. The variety of programs that we are now conducting have only a moderate degree of substantive connection between them. The important connection is that we have a connection, and one that we trust will continue.

## SCU Signs Agreements with Queen Mary, University of London for Intercollegiate Cooperation and Sino-UK Materials Institute

On June 2, 2012, President Xie Heping met with Prof. Simon Gaskell, Principal of Queen Mary, University of London, and a delegation headed by him. Vice President Yan Shijing and some officials concerned attended the meeting.

President Xie said that the two universities have a lot in common in terms of history, academic and research strengths and national ranking, which lays a solid foundation for mutual cooperation. He also said that SCU attaches great importance to international cooperation and has established good relationship with many internationally renowned universities, achieving good results. He hoped that through the signing of the intra-university agreements and the establishment of the Sino-UK Joint Materials Research Institution the two sides could strengthen their cooperation concerning the humanities, biomaterials, talent fostering, research, as well as teaching reform so as to broaden the areas of cooperation, improve the cooperation level and achieve substantial results.

Professor Simon Gaskell said that Queen Mary, University of London made much progress this year, with the University being about to officially become one of the top twenty four universities in the Russell University Conglomerate. SCU and Queen Mary, University of London have mutual understanding concerning joint teaching and international education programs and so share great prospects for cooperation. He said that knowledge and science transcend national borders



and hoped that more and more brilliant students, SCU included, would study at Queen Mary, and that the two sides were going to reap mutual benefits by pooling the best creative teams together, optimizing useful resources and making international cooperation for joint creativity.

After the meeting, President Xie and the President Gaskell signed the Agreement Concerning Cooperation and Establishment of Sino-UK Joint Materials Institute on behalf of SCU and Queen Mary, University of London respectively.

President Xie awarded a certificate for Visiting Professorship to the director of the Joint Materials Institute, Professor William Gillin while the President Gaskell conferred the Visiting Professor Certificates on Professor Gong Ming, Dean of College of

Physical Science and Technology, SCU and Professor Zhang Hong, Vice Dean of College of Physical Science and Technology in acknowledgement of their contributions to joint research efforts.

Before the meeting, Vice President Yan Shijing had a discussion with Prof. Gaskell. The two sides exchanged their ideas on strengthening undergraduate, graduate and advanced talent education, hosting thematic summer camps, the 3+X talent-cultivation model and teacher exchange programs and they reached mutual understanding on many issues.

Sino-UK Materials Research institute is a joint cooperation entity based on College of Physical Science and Technology, SCU and the condensed matter new materials research team of Queen Mary, University

of London, UK. The joint research institute will take full advantage of the research groups in physics, chemistry and material science as well as the complementary strengths of the research labs in both universities. Its task will be three-fold: doing

cutting-edge condensed matter physical research through attracting overseas resources, international exchange and talent fostering; doing research concerning design, manufacturing techniques of many functional materials and devices through

material mechanism study; translating new functional materials of exclusive intellectual property rights into competitive products in collaboration with Chengdu New Materials Industry Institute.

## SCU Wins Erasmus Programs in Collaboration with Prestigious European Institutions

The Education and Culture Department, European Commission recently announced on its official website the winners of 52 joint international academic exchange programs between European universities and those elsewhere and SCU was awarded two Erasmus Programs.

The two Erasmus Programs awarded to SCU are both applied through joint efforts with European universities. One of the two programs is the Lotus III "Linking Organizations through University Synergies", applied in collaboration with Ghent University, Belgium. The other one is European and Asian Network for Sharing Knowledge on Environment and Health, applied jointly with University of Montpellier of Science and Technology (University of Montpellier 2), France.

In recently years, SCU collaborated with many higher education institutions in Europe and was awarded six Erasmus Programs successively, sending 82 SCU faculty members and students, all of whom received generous funding support or full scholarship from the Eras-

mus Programs, to European schools for study, joint research programs, academic exchange and visits. Meanwhile, 10 plus teachers and students from higher education institutions in Europe visited SCU for study or exchange activities. The Erasmus Mundus joint programs reinforce SCU's exchange and cooperation with prestigious universities in Europe. As a

result, SCU has worked with the University of Göttingen, Germany, Ghent University, Belgium, Uppsala University, Sweden, and Vrije University of Brussels, Belgium, to name just a few. SCU signed bilateral cooperation agreements with these schools through the exchange activities of Erasmus Programs.



## SCU and Chinese University of Hong Kong Sign Intercollegiate Cooperation Agreement

President Xie led a delegation to visit the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) on September 27, 2012 and signed SCU-CUHK Academic Exchange Agreement with Professor Joseph J.Y. Sung, the President of CUHK. The two sides had discussions and reaffirmed the intention for further efforts in exchange and cooperation in student and faculty exchange activities, research, academic programs, and resources sharing. They agreed that the two schools should make the best use of each other's strengths and strive for mutually beneficial outcomes.

At the signing ceremony, President Xie said that the two schools had signed



Academic Exchange Agreement, Letter of Intent for Academic Exchange and Cooperation, and Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint-Lab for Reproductive Medicine. The two schools formed a concrete and stable cooperative relationship, which is conducive to active experimentation for and exchange of ideas on

ways to develop the two schools into top universities in the world.

President Sung of CUHK said that the two schools enjoyed a long history of successful cooperation, that he had the personal privilege of becoming a guest professor at SCU, and that he was really happy for SCU's impressive development in recent years. He hoped that the new agreement would become a starting point for enhanced efforts for cooperation and exchange and that CUHK and SCU would work together to build the two schools into top-level institutions in the world.

## SCU Signs Intercollegiate Cooperation Agreement with University of Toulouse, France

SCU Vice-President Shi Jian attended opening ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> French Culture Week in Sichuan International Studies University, Chongqing, China on November 27. He also took part in the signing ceremony of the cooperation agreement between the University of Toulouse and some higher education institutions in China, an important event on the agenda of the 7<sup>th</sup> French Cultural Week.

On behalf of SCU, Vice-President

Shi signed SCU-University of Toulouse Intercollegiate Cooperation Agreement with Marie-France Barthet, the President the University of Toulouse. The two universities intend to implement a cooperation plan incorporating joint research programs, joint academic programs, and faculty and academic information exchange programs. Madame Sylvie-Agnes Bermann, the French Ambassador to China and Mr. Emmanuel Rousseau, the French Consul General in Chengdu both



attended the opening ceremony and addressed the audience.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Canada-China Academic Forum: Innovative Approaches to Graduate Studies Kicks off in Chengdu

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Canada-China Academic Forum: Innovative Approaches to Graduate Studies, a conference sponsored by China Scholarship Council and the University of Alberta, Canada and hosted by SCU, was held on August 3-5, 2012 in Chengdu. SCU President Xie Heping, Fellow of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, attended the forum and delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

Participants from 43 higher education institutions in China and 20 plus from Canadian colleges and universities and representatives of the government agencies and businesses concerned attended the forum. The forum is organized in a bid to reinforce exchange and cooperation between China and Canada in the field of postgraduate education, lend an innovative edge to postgraduate education and its internationalization, create innovative models, enhance the competence of postgraduate students and reinforce cooperation between China and Canada in the field of postgraduate education.

Centered on the theme of innovative approaches to graduate studies, the forum includes discussion sections on graduate education quality assurance and funding model, joint degree-conferring programs and joint graduate training, innovative graduate education and training model, and employment prospects for graduate students. The participants had exchange of ideas and discussion on international collaboration in graduate education, joint programs for innova-



tion, and quality assurance of graduate programs. The participants made analysis of and projections for the future trends and developments in graduate education.

The two sides reached the Canada-China Mutual Understanding on Cooperation in Graduate Education, an important outcome from the forum, and will reinforce cooperation in the fields of joint graduate programs, joint degree conferring programs, promotion of graduate education through joint research programs, and supporting higher education institutions in West China to improve the competence of graduate stu-

dents. The two sides will continue their research in innovative models of graduate education and help train competent graduate students who will meet the needs of a future world.

As the organizer of the forum, SCU received much attention from many Canadian colleges and universities. Vice-President Yan had exchange of ideas and discussions with the delegate of some Canadian schools.

SCU signed inter-collegiate cooperation agreements with Dalhousie University and Simon Fraser University during the course of the forum.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Flame-Retardant Materials and Technologies Kicks off in Chengdu

On September 18, 2012, SCU hosted in Chengdu the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Flame-Retardant Materials and Technologies, which was co-sponsored by China Flame Retardant Society (ChinaFRS), Department of Material Science, Science and Technology Commission, Ministry of Education, Government of China, and three SCU labs, National-Local Joint Lab for Environment-Friendly Polymer Material Engineering, National Key Lab for Polymer Material Engineering, and Environment-Friendly Polymer Material Engineering Research Lab, Ministry of Education. Professor Wang Yuzhong of SCU presided over the conference and moderated the opening ceremony.

Professor Yang Quanming, Vice-President of SCU, spoke on behalf of SCU and extended congratulations for the opening

of the symposium and a warm welcome to Chinese and overseas participants. He said the symposium created a great chance for promoting communication among renowned experts and scholars, reinforcing collaborative efforts in innovation, and boosting the development in the fields of polymer science and materials science at SCU. The symposium will help bring about the rapid development of flame-retardant materials industry in China and in the world.

On behalf of ChinaFRS, Zhou Zhengmao, the Secretary General of ChinaFRS, extended congratulations on the successful organization of the symposium. He wished that the symposium would promote solidarity among Chinese and foreign experts of flame-retardant materials, help generate more discussions and exchange of ideas on the latest develop-

ment in the field, and facilitate the rapid and smooth development of the flame-retardant materials in the world.

The International Symposium on Flame-Retardant Materials and Technologies is a biannual event and has become one of the most influential international conferences on flame-retardant materials. The event lasted three days and approximately 300 researchers and representatives of businesses across the world attended it. The event is dedicated to the exchange of ideas regarding cutting-edge research, issues of popular concern, new technology and the latest research results. Distinguished researchers from Italy, the U.S., Germany, France and the U.K. were invited to make presentations at the conference.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Huaxi Forum for Medical Education Development and Challenges Kicks off

The 8<sup>th</sup> Huaxi Forum for Medical Education Development and Challenges was opened in the afternoon of October 21 on SCU campus. Professor Harold M. Maurer, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Professor Douglas M. Ziedonis, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts (UMass) Medical School, some other famous experts, and Executive Vice-President Li Hong and Vice-President Shi Jian attended the forum.

At the forum, Professor Zheng Jialin gave a presentation on Medical Education Reform; Professor Wan Xuehong did a presentation on From Knowledge-Transfer to Overall Development; Professor Douglas Ziedonis did a presentation on Trends in U.S. Medical Education: A Global Perspective from UMass, introducing the latest trends in the development of medical education. Professor Ziedonis stressed that the medical education in any given country should not be isolated from reality. Instead, medical educators should take a broad view to



learn from the most advanced education and instruction models and academic programs of professional training, strengthen communication and cooperation with the advance countries, and gear their medical education programs to international standards.

After the presentations, the experts took questions from the students.



Before the forum started, Executive Vice-President Li and Vice-President Shi met with the UNMC delegation headed by Professor Harold M. Maurer. The two sides had lively discussions regarding academic exchange and cooperation. The two schools signed SCU-UNMC Academic Exchange Agreement.

## International Symposium on Eastern Diplomacy and Indian Foreign Policy Opens in SCU

On September 17, 2012, the International Symposium on Eastern Diplomacy and Indian Foreign Policy was held in SCU. The event was sponsored by Sichuan Provincial People's Association

for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the South Asian Studies Center, SCU. Approximately 60 participants from India, the U.S., Russia, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao and mainland China

attended the symposium. About 100 scholars and SCU faculties and students audited the conference. Vice-President Yan Shijing attended the opening ceremony and delivered welcoming address.

Vice-President Yan began his speech by extending a warm welcome on behalf of SCU to all the Chinese and foreign participants. He pointed out that the symposium was held upon the propitious occasion of Sino-India Friendship Cooperation Year. SCU has done some important research in South Asian studies. Being the site of a key South Asian studies research base of the Ministry of Education, the South Asian Studies Center of SCU has always been dedicated to promoting communication and interaction between the domestic circle of academics and those in other countries. With the full involvement of all the participants, the symposium would be a great success and contribute to the development of academic research in India's diplomacy and friendly communication between the peoples of the two countries.

In his speech, Mr. Ran Zaiwang of Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries said that Sichuan had started cooperation ac-

tivities in a wide range of economic and cultural areas, achieving impressive outcomes in the process. The reinforcement of friendly relations between China and India would definitely strengthen cooperation and thus lead to mutual benefits. It will also be conducive to the development of social harmony in countries, the promotion of regional stability and the maintenance of world peace.

Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, the Consul General of India in Guangzhou, Mr. Manoranjan Mohanty, the Chairperson of the Institute of Chinese Studies, India, Wang Xincheng, the Vice Chairperson of the Department of History, Peking University, and Wei Chuxing from the Department of History, the University of Macau were the guest speakers at the symposium. Discussions at the symposium were focused on Sino-India foreign relations, the diplomatic strategies of India, the regional diplomacy of India, and the domestic and historical background of India's diplomacy.



## SCU-MSU Symposium on Human Development in the Context of Global Change Kicks off in SCU

The Symposium on Human Development in the Context of Global Change, co-hosted by SCU and Michigan State University (MSU), was held on SCU campus from October 23 to 25, 2010. Professor Yan Shijing, Vice-President of SCU, attended the opening ceremony and delivered an address. SCU staffs, faculties and students and 20 professors from MSU attended the symposium.

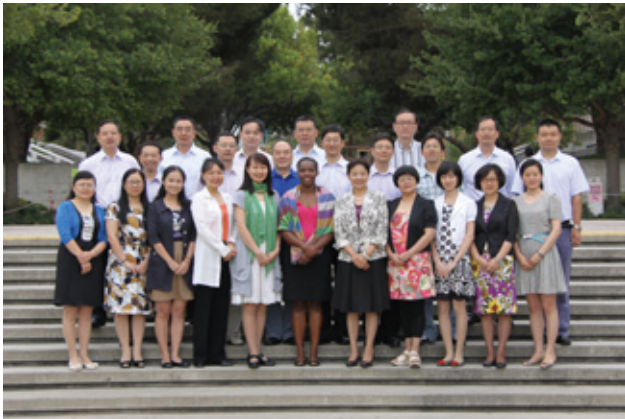
At the symposium, specialists and students from MSU and SCU had discussions about the interaction between hu-



mans and nature in the context of global climatic change, natural disaster management, post-disaster reconstruction, urban-rural coordinated development and policy research. Scholars from the

two schools worked together to identify areas for future cooperation and draw up the action plan for future cooperation activities. Professors Tang Ya of SCU and Professor Jianguo Qi of MSU were appointed as the liaison persons to assist the application and implementation of future cooperation projects.

The symposium is an important part of the cooperation programs for SCU and MSU in 2012 and will help promote communication and exchange activities between SCU and MSU.



The 11<sup>th</sup> SCU Department Heads Overseas Workshop opened in the University of California, Irvine (UCI) on July 17, 2012.



The 12<sup>th</sup> SCU Department Heads Overseas Workshop opened in the Michigan State University (MSU) on July 19, 2012.



SCU Young Faculty Summer Overseas Workshops were successfully held in California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and Western Michigan University (WMU) in July, 2012.



June 15<sup>th</sup>

The International Conference on Higher Education Creativity Is Held in SCU



June 15<sup>th</sup>

Dr. George Chu, International Affairs Advisor to the American President, Visits SCU



June 29<sup>th</sup>

President Xie Heping met with Professor Hui-Hai Liu, of Lawrence-Berkeley National Laboratory, and Awarded Part-Time Professor Certificate



July 4<sup>th</sup>

Prof. Karl Stumo, Vice President of Pacific Lutheran University, Visits SCU



August 17<sup>th</sup>

Participants of Workshop for Health Promotion Officials from African Countries Visit West China Hospital for Women and Children



September 4<sup>th</sup>

Delegation from the Catholic University of the Most Holy Conception (UCSC), Chile Visits SCU



September 19<sup>th</sup>

International Conference on Urban & Rural Development in China and India Opens at SCU



2012 International Graduate Scholarship Fair was held in SCU



September 21<sup>st</sup>

Mr. George Pappas, Chancellor of Victoria University, Australia, Visits SCU



September 24<sup>th</sup>

Delegation from Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan Visits SCU



October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Delegations from Oxford University and Cambridge University and Professor Angela Lin, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Imperial College London, UK Visit SCU



November 5<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Boris R. Misikov, Rector of Sakhalin State University, Russia Visits SCU



November 5<sup>th</sup>

Vice-President Ales Gregar of the Tomas Bata University, Czech Republic, Visits SCU



December 14<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> SCU-QMUL Biomaterials Symposium Kicks off

## SCU-Woosong University Exchange Day

SCU-Woosong University Exchange Day activities were held at SCU on September 17-19, 2012. During the 3-day event, President Xie had a lively discussion with Professor John E. Endicott, President of Woosong University of South Korea. President Endicott gave a fascinating speech to SCU students. Meanwhile, students from SCU and Woosong University joined hands in debates and an exciting cosmetic and fashion show of the Korean style, promoting the development of a deep friendship with the colorful activities.

**President Xie met with the President of Woosong University and looked forward to the completion of College of Asia, a joint program of the two schools.**

On behalf of SCU, President Xie extended a cordial welcome to Professor John E. Endicott, President of Woosong University, and a delegation headed by him. President Xie made a brief overview of SCU and reflected on the history of friendly interaction between SCU and Woosong University. President Xie pointed out that Woosong University is one of the schools that enjoy the longest history of friendship, the most successful cooperation programs and the most number of exchange activities with SCU. The Confucius College co-funded by the two schools is also one of the most successful Confucius colleges established by SCU in foreign countries. He said that Woosong University shared



a common goal with SCU—both attach great importance to internalization and share a commitment to developing into one of the most prestigious universities in the world. He hoped that SCU and Woosong University would continue their pursuit of the dream, increase efforts in cooperation and finish building the College of Asia, an institution with an international bearing, soon, which will help train and provide the most competent economics, business administration, and management personnel needed for the emergence of the Asian power. President Xie pointed out that 2012 witnessed the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of foreign relations between China and South Korea. The SCU-Woosong University Exchange Day Activity is the best evidence for the friendship between the two countries and the friendship

and efforts for exchange and cooperation between the two schools.

President Endicott thanked SCU for the warm reception and said he was honored to have been invited to visit SCU for the first time. He hoped that his visit and the exchange activities would promote further cooperation between the two schools and would lead to mutually-beneficial development subsequently.

Vice-President Yan Shijing and officials from the departments concerned also took part in the reception.

**President John Endicott addressed SCU faculties and students on international generalist education**

After the meeting, President Xie and President Endicott declared the open-

ing of the SCU-Woosong University Exchange Day Activity in the auditorium on Jiang'an Campus, SCU. Vice-President Yan presided over the opening ceremony.

President Xie made a speech on behalf SCU. In the speech, he reflected on the long history of friendship between the two schools and described his vision for the cooperation between the two schools. He believes that the exchange day activity will become the beginning of a new phase of cooperation and exchange. Then, Ms. Gan Ruiyuan, Vice-President of Woosong University and Dean of the Confucius College at Woosong University, delivered a report entitled Woosong University—A Highly International University, introducing the university's history from its founding 17 years to its current status as one of 11 top South Korean universities that have achieved greatest success in innovation and internationalization. She summarized the school's development and road to success and invited SCU students to participate in the joint student exchange programs of SCU and Woosong University.

After that, President Endicott, who had 31 years of experience working for the U.S. Government, was once a special assistant to President Reagan of the U.S. Government, and was nominated twice for the Nobel Prize for Peace, made a keynote speech on Internationalized Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He elaborated on the core values of the Sol-Bridge International School of Business, Woosong University and the university's dedication to training Asian experts and leaders with a global vision, innovative management capabilities, cross-cultural competitiveness, and heightened sense of social responsibility. Woosong University is committed to the teaching philosophy of providing a unique multicultural learning experience. He said that the two



schools should join hands to create a platform for high-quality education and share the fruits of globalization and internationalization.

#### Heated debate.

During the Exchange Day Activity,

Woosong University organized fascinating lectures and photo exhibits of the Korean culture. The faculties and students of Woosong University visited Chengdu Giant Panda Center, SCU Museum, Kuan-Zhai Alleys, a famous tourist site featuring Chengdu local folk culture, and Qingcheng Mountain.

# SCU Students Embracing Contact with the World

## —On SCU International Exchange Camp

According to 2012 Work Report by SCU President, SCU should strive to help students participate in at least one exchange activity with foreign countries, which is one important component of the SCU plan to promote internationalized education. In order to create an international academic atmosphere and foster a global perspective among students, SCU were to send more students to study abroad. In addition, over 300 students from other countries would come to SCU for the Exchange Camp activities. The International Exchange Camp on the theme of Meeting at SCU for Friendship was launched at the end of June, 2012. Altogether 13 SCU colleges and schools were involved in the activity and 239 foreign students were involved. As many as 1,129 SCU students were directly involved in the Exchange Camp activities. Over 60 activities and lectures on various cultural themes were held, involving 5,000 plus people.

SCU students were delighted to have the chance to participate in such a great variety of campus activities, e.g. foreign culture exchange activities, professional training, lectures on the most advanced research, and contests. The enthusiastic atmosphere for international academic exchange created a platform for students to learn about the society and Chinese and foreign cultures, greatly enhancing SCU students' awareness of the importance of a global perspective.

Both Chinese and foreign students were pleased with the arrangement of activities. Many of them wrote enthusiastic

letters of appreciation and their reflections on the activities. The students have also made friends during the process and they hoped to continue their friendship in the future.

A Russian student said, "This activity gives me a great chance to learn about China, the beautiful city of Chengdu and the SCU."

Nate, Sharon and Andrea from University of Massachusetts gave positive feedbacks in the letters they wrote.

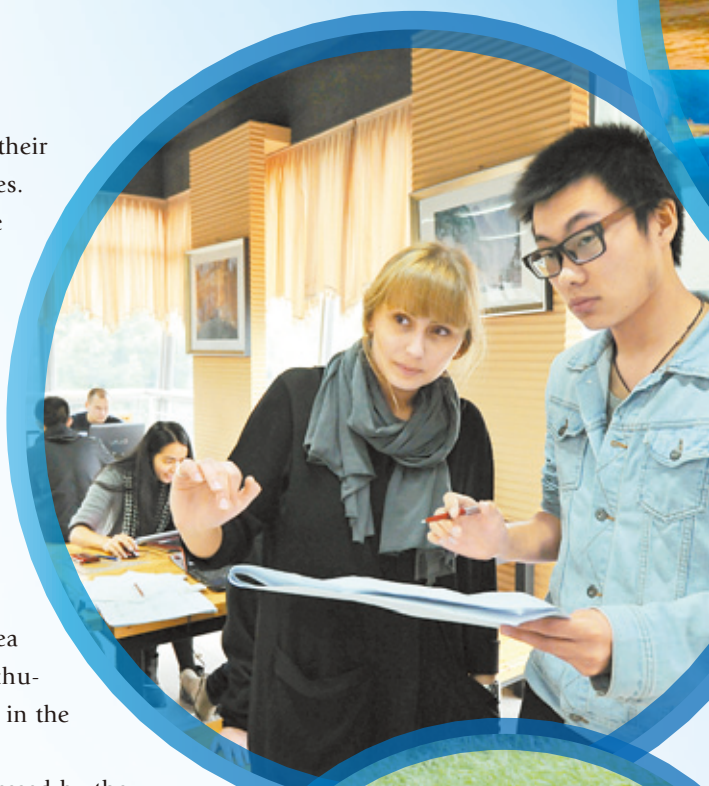
"We were also very impressed by the meticulous organization and execution of the entire event.

All of us especially enjoyed learning about Traditional Chinese Medicine, which is not an opportunity available in the United States."

"We feel that this program has done a great job establishing vital contacts amongst students and will prove to be a great foundation for further exchange and dialogue between these students not only for their school years, but for the rest of their careers."

At the meeting organized for experience sharing for the International Exchange Camp, Vice-President Bu Hong and Vice-President Yan Shijing both commended highly the success of the activities and called for new suggestions and proposals so that the International Exchange Camp would be expanded in the future. They

hoped that the activity will lead to more successful international exchange and cooperation programs for the undergraduate students and help improve the overall competence of SCU students.





**Sweden ecology summer camp & Outdoors field trips**

School of Life Sciences, SCU  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Engineering comprehensive competence training and contest**

**Serial lectures and technical practice**  
School of Manufacturing Science and Engineering, SCU  
International Students

**Language and culture exchange activities**

School of Foreign Languages and Cultures, SCU  
Ural Federal University  
Japan Culture Week, British Culture Week,  
America Culture Week, Spanish Culture Week , French Culture Week

**Joint architectural design proposal**

School of Architecture & Environment, SCU  
VIA University College in Denmark

**Exchange in culture and specialization**

School of Physical Science and Technology, SCU  
National University of Singapore

**Joint teaching and cultural exchange**

Arts School, SCU  
Western Michigan University

**Language and cultural Exchange**

School of Literature and Journalism, SCU  
University of Central Lancashire

**Communication with the masters and learning about the latest academic development**

West China School of Stomatology, SCU  
Overseas Students

**Academic innovation activities by top students**

WuYuzhang Honors School, SCU  
University of Washington

**Clinical activities**

West China School of Medicine, SCU  
University of Massachusetts, University of Western Ontario,  
VIA University College in Denmark,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

**Lectures and communication**

School of Chemistry, SCU  
International Students

**Lectures and communication**

Mathematical School, SCU  
International Students



四川大學  
SICHUAN UNIVERSITY